

September 2017

Ekhlaspur Fieldwork Report



Table of Contents

1. Overview.....	1
1-1. Aim of this Visit	1
1-2. Schedule.....	1
2. Details of the Fieldwork.....	2
2-1. Garbage Collector	2
2-2. Schools	3
2-2-1. Ekhlaspur High School.....	3
2-2-2. 68 Poshehim Ekhlaspur Government Primary School	4
2-3. Ekhlaspur Market	5
2-4. Ekhlaspur Union Office.....	6
2-5. Meeting with the VIE.....	7
2-6. Focus Group Interview	8
2-7. Observations of the Endline Survey	9
2-7-1. Meeting with the Interviewers.....	9
3. Findings from the Fieldwork	10
4. Directions for the Future.....	11
4-1. Environmental Sustainability.....	11
4-2. Economic Sustainability.....	11

1. Overview

This Bangladesh fieldwork held between 17th and 22nd September 2017, was coordinated by GCC under the GramClean Project. We visited the project site in Ekhlaspur and conducted research for the evaluation of the GramClean Project.

1-1. Aim of this Visit

In the larger context, the aim was to evaluate the progress and the effects of the GramClean Project conducted in Ekhlaspur Village, Matlab Uttar, Chandpur District. More specifically, there were mainly 4 aims for this Bangladesh fieldwork.

- To visit the project site and understand the current situation, the local reaction regarding the GramClean project
- To monitor the endline survey
- To collect qualitative data regarding the operation of GramClean Project
- To agree upon the future direction of GramClean Project

1-2. Schedule

The main activities during our stay is shown in the diagram below.

Date		Main activity	What we aim to achieve
17 th Sep	PM	Meeting	To introduce both teams, to reconfirm the schedule for the following week
18 th Sep	PM	Visit Ekhlaspur High School	To understand the project site and the reactions at the school
	PM	Visit Ekhlaspur Bazaar	To understand the project site and the reactions at the bazaar
	PM	Meeting with Interviewers	To share information from the interview conducted on the day
19 th Sep	AM	Observation of Survey work (Jahirabad)	To monitor how the survey work is done and understand the site of comparison
	PM	Focus group discussion	To understand the villagers reactions and gather qualitative data
	PM	Interview with VIE	To share ideas and hear opinions from the VIE about how to proceed with GramClean Project
20 th Sep	AM	Visit to Primary School	To understand the project site and the reactions at the school
	AM	Visit to Union Office	To discuss the possibilities of collaboration in moving forward with the Gram Clean Project
21 st Sep	PM	Meeting	To summarize the basic findings from Ekhlaspur visit, to discuss and agree upon the future direction of GramClean project

1-3. Participants

Haruko Noguchi

Professor of Health Economics at Waseda University Graduate School of Political Science. Supervisor of monitoring and evaluation of GramClean Project.

Daichi Usui

President of Global Change Makers Program (GCMP). Has been visiting Bangladesh since 2009, this visit tolling up as the 9th visit.



(From left: Haruko Noguchi, Saki Hayakawa, Daichi Usui)

Saki Hayakawa

Student at the University of Tokyo, majoring in interdisciplinary social sciences. Second visit to Bangladesh, after first visiting in August 2014 as a member of the GCMP.

2. Details of the Fieldwork

2-1. Garbage Collector

General Observations

The garbage collectors were separating paper, plastic, plastic bottles and glass. They each wore a glove and a mask for protection. We expected that paper waste is burnt at the burning place at Ekhlaspur High School, but it was being burnt just by where it has been collected.

Also, the waste was left in open air after collection before separation, therefore, it got soaked when there was sudden rain.



Waste separation by cleaners



Paper waste burnt in open air

2-2. Schools

Schools play an important role in the whole project, as an educational institution, calling for increased awareness to the problem. It is one of the few places where the GramClean project raises awareness and calls for understanding for its activities, contributing to the formation of future environmentally conscious norms. The aim of the visit was to hear how the situation has evolved through the project and how the attitudes and mindsets of the teachers and students are changing. Especially, Ekhlaspur High School serves an important role in the project, also as a site of waste management.

2-2-1. Ekhlaspur High School



With the head teacher of Ekhlaspur High School



Walking through the school playground

General Observations

- The playground was much cleaner than our previous visits. The wall around the school was built. This clarified the border and could have enhanced a sense of ownership to the land, encouraging the students and teachers to keep it clean.
- All the bins for GramClean Project were put in one corner of the corridor

Date of visit	A. 18 th Sep 2017 B. 19 th Sep 2017
Interviewee	A. School official, age 40 B. Head teacher, age 45
Comments regarding the GramClean Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The school environment is much cleaner than before - Students are interested and engaged in the project - Cleaning activities (cleaning school premises) are held twice a week before assembly. - VIE visits the school once a month to lecture about the separation of garbage. Students should be regularly guided about the meaning of the project. - Burning place in the school cannot be used for garbage collected outside the school premises, as it produces a lot of smoke. They feel it would harm the students' health. - The project is explained to the parents in parent meetings held by the school - All teachers fully understand the project and is willing to cooperate - No problem so far regarding the project

2-2-2. 68 Poshehim Ekhlaspur Government Primary School

Date of visit	20 th Sep 2017
Interviewee	Head teacher & teacher
Comments regarding the GramClean Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - School environment has improved since the project began and students are aware of how to categorise garbage - No burning place inside the primary school, all garbage is collected and managed by GramClean collectors - Parents are made aware of the project - Colourful bins with labels outside of the school may help encourage people to put waste in the bin.



With the teachers of the school



Interview with the head teacher

2-3. Ekhlaspur Market

During our past research, the market was one of the most serious places in Ekhlaspur village, considering the amount of waste and how it is being managed. Therefore, it was in our interest to see how the situation has changed through the project.

General Observations

- The main street seemed to be relatively clean. However, one step in to the side path and in the area behind the market, the waste was dumped here and there, which was causing bad odour. The water behind the market was contaminated.
- Not many GramClean bins were found in the main street. Some were found behind the market.



Waste dumped behind the market



Interview with the member of
the market committee

Date of visit	18 th Sep 2017
Interviewee	Secretary of committee/Owner of pharmacy
Comments regarding the GramClean Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Market committee is mainly in charge of maintenance activities (small maintenance activities within the market and the maintenance of the mosque) - Aware of GramClean Project, since he has a relation with a religious school taking part in the project - Shops do not want to place bins in front of their shops. This is because perishable garbage can cause odour when left in the bin. - Market cleaner is not a part of GramClean project neither is she hired by the market. The market cleaner asks for contributions from each shop after cleaning every morning. - The market should be cleaned between 6:30 – 7:00 am before it becomes busy - More bins should be prepared, preferably 2 bins for each shop, one for perishable and the other for non-perishable garbage

2-4. Ekhlaspur Union Office

The meeting with the Union Office was held in order to investigate the possibility for collaboration with the authority. The nature of the project conducted for public good, matches well with the field of the public sector.



Interview at the union office

Date of visit	20 th Sep 2017
Interviewee	Deputy Secretary
Comments regarding the GramClean Project	<p><u>How to improve the situation in the market</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No collaboration scheme between union and market committee. <p>The union can advise the market committee, but will not be able to enforce it.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Suggests conducting an event for publicity of the project - At this stage, it would not be possible for union and/or local government to collect costs for managing garbage from each household and shop owner. - In order to improve and motivate people to behave properly, it will take more time.
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2-5. Meeting with the VIE

Meeting with the VIE, responsible for the implementation of the GramClean project, was held. The main aim was to deepen the understanding of the progress of the project from the local perspective, and to discuss the strategies that is planned to move further forward with the project.

Date of visit	19 th Sep 2017
Interviewee	Foyas Ahmed (VIE)
Comments regarding the GramClean Project	<p><u>Situation in the market</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There should be a bin for each shop - Perishable and non-perishable waste should be separated <p><u>Cooperation between the project and the market</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Market sweeper can collect perishable waste and the project cleaner can collect non-perishable waste - Possibility of training the market cleaner under the project <p><u>Plans for the future</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collection of service fee should start from those who do not have an alternative method of managing waste (= no space around the house)

2-6. Focus Group Interview

A focus group interview with the villagers of Ekhlaspur Ward 2 was conducted. It aimed to collect more dynamic data to enhance evidence collected through quantitative research.



Focus group interview

Date of visit	19 th Sep 2017
Comments regarding the GramClean Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Every household has received the basket and waste is collected from each household- Environment is cleaner than before- Current use of perishable waste<ul style="list-style-type: none">Bury in a hole, leave near plants, use as feed for cattle- Students from Ekhlaspur High School discussed about the project at home- 10 BTK/month may be affordable for each household, but some may disagree to pay- Suggestions for market<ul style="list-style-type: none">Implementation of the project at the market should be monitored, bigger dustbins are necessary, waste should be collected twice a day

2-7. Observations of the Endline Survey

The observation of the endline survey was one of the four main aims of this visit. We aimed to observe the methodologies of the surveying process and to understand the geographical and socio-economic aspect of the control site, Jahirabad.



Observation of the survey



Interview team

General Observations

- The interview was conducted smoothly, and most participants seemed cooperative to the research
- There was disparity within the village in terms of socio-economic status
- Control site, Jahirabad, was not far from Ekhlaspur (5-10 min by car), therefore, there may be a spillover effect. Some knew of the GramClean project, others did not.

2-7-1. Meeting with the Interviewers

Date of visit	18 th Sep 2017
Interviewee	7 survey interviewers (students of Dhaka University)
Comments regarding the GramClean Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Younger people have changed their mindsets, however it seems to occur slowly for old people.- Some people need new bins, since bins are broken.- Difficulty in asking/answering the question about social capital- Timing is important as many women are busy during the lunch hour. Other times, people are more willing to answer the questions.

3. Findings from the Fieldwork

I. Project progressing well in schools and households, more needs to be done at the market

From our fieldwork, we understand that the GramClean project is well accepted among schools and households. They did not comment on any critical problems/troubles faced regarding the project. Their understanding of waste and the environment seemed to have deepened which is influencing their choice of action in their everyday lives. The system seemed to be functioning well and there was substantial improvement in particular areas of Ekhlaspur village.

On the other hand, the situation in the market is a point of concern. The bins that were set in the market had been removed due to complaints from shopkeepers. The project has not yet been able to establish a collaborative system with the market committee. The market cleaner, not working under the GramClean project is complexifying the system, leading to inefficiency and dysfunction in the market. This may also be due to the fact that it is a “public space” and people lack ownership for the problems caused in the market.

II. High participation, good image of the villagers, some possibility for service fee collection

From observing the survey and from the focus group discussion, the overall impression was generally very positive. Most people were willingly participating in the project and wished for its continuation in the future.

Although the fee from households may not be large enough to cover all the costs, a large proportion of the people were willing to make some financial contribution to the project. Further analysis of the survey results regarding fee collection is to be conducted.

III. Need for alternative burning place

The initial plan was to burn paper waste in the burning place constructed in the corner of the high school. However, through this fieldwork, it became apparent that the school had refused to keep the promise. They explained that the amount of paper waste from the whole project site will cause too much smoke and could have negative effects on the students' health. Additionally, the change in the head teacher during the period, may have affected that decision. Paper waste collected outside the school premises is now being burnt in open air. This needs to be solved by building an alternative burning place where possible.

4. Directions for the Future

To progress with the project, some fundamental points need to be considered. This report will conclude by discussing the future steps of the project from two perspectives: environmental sustainability and economic sustainability.

4-1. Environmental Sustainability

A project, especially one that is addressing environmental issues should be environmentally sustainable in how it is designed. We have considered three points in the system where improvement should be made.

As pointed out in section 3-III, burning facility for paper waste generated outside of the school must be constructed as soon as possible. The place of the burning place should be considered carefully, taking in opinions from the neighbouring areas.

Secondly, an effort must be made to find a solution for the accumulation of unrecyclable plastic waste. It may not be easy, considering the fact that the amount of waste generated in the project area is not of significance for large scale businesses. However, in a small village with small facilities like Ekhlaspur, it is not sustainable to keep on collecting and accumulating plastic waste in the storage.

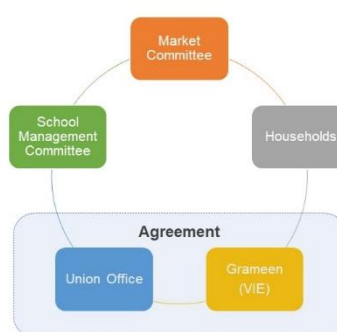
Thirdly, in the future, further waste segregation in the household, may lead to establishing a more streamlined process, as the current separation operation is time consuming. If paper and other collected waste is separated at the time of collection, this could reduce the cost in the long term.

4-2. Economic Sustainability

Currently, as the preliminary phase of the project, large proportion of the cost is covered by Japanese funding sources. However, in order to sustain the project, there must be a framework for raising funds to cover the costs of the project.

We propose that GramClean project collaborate with the union authority and to establish a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model. This is appropriate, as waste management service provided by the project has a “public”

PPP Model



Stakeholders	Roles
Market Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pay the fee for waste management system Employ and train the market cleaner
Households	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pay the fee for waste management system
School Management Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educate students and parents about the environment Conduct awareness program
Union Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide authority to the VIE to run the waste management system
Grameen (VIE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responsible for coordinating the project Collect the fee from market and households, and manage income and expenditure

aspect, tackling with environmental issues that concerning all villagers. As the public sector lacks the resources and the capacity to take on that role, it will benefit both sides to form such a partnership. In addition, stakeholders should strengthen their ties for the success of the project. Closer cooperation with the Market Committee should be established to tackle the current situation in the market.